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in the country above Lima. He quotes with approval Steinmann's view that glaciation was contemporary in both hemispheres and the cause, extra-terrestrial. In South America there were plainly two glaciations, the first heavy, its glaciers descending in Peru to 2,800 meters, in East Bolivia (E. side of Cordillera Real?) to 3,000 and in the northern Argentine to 3,500. In the second, the lowest points reached were a thousand meters higher. At present the ice tongues are 800 or 900 meters higher still. One judges that little of Bolivia was ever under ice. This must be charged to the aridity of the region.

The discussion of wind and precipitation that occurs at several points seems to be the weak part of the book, the only weak one in a very strong work. This comes up in connection with the very interesting question of the relative height of the snow line, etc., on the eastern and western ranges. Meyer and Reiss are quoted as finding the snow line lower toward the Amazon in Ecuador. Hauthal, though seeing but the west side of the Cordillera Real in Bolivia, is satisfied from all reports that the opposite is true there, *i. e.*, that the glaciers lie lower on the western slope. He explains it for his season, December to March, by daily clouding toward noon, thus keeping the western sun from shining on the mountains and melting the snow. But he suggests that this might be different in June-July, when a cloudless sky allows equal insolation on each slope. It is argued at page 117 that this would give the snow line equal height on each side, but at 171 the stronger afternoon sun is supposed to melt more on the west and give a higher snow line there. He makes the important point that snow line measures in this region should be made at the same season or they are not comparable. Yet he was astonished above Lima to see the low Sierra de la Sal, 160 kilometers to the east, with more ice on it than on the higher, western ranges. He thinks the east winds from the Amazon basin should be warm and melt the eastern snows or keep the ranges too warm for snow to fall on them.

It seems here that he must fail to take into account the adiabatic cooling that accompanies the uplift of these eastern airs through heights of 10,000 to 20,000 feet. The hot airs of the La Paz valley (p. 172) should be cooled to freezing by the expansional loss of temperature before they reach the plateau even if they were at 90° in the plains and lost some rain with liberation of latent heat on the way. Greater snows are to be expected near the Amazon basin because of the greater moisture in the air there. Prof. Bowman tells me he found the same thing there. It is for this that season matters so much. The present writer recalls his astonishment in three winters that he spent just east of Aconquija in northern Argentine to see the mountain bare in the cold weather but often snow-clad in the rains of summer (December). Nor is the snow fall in Patagonia with east winds strange to anyone familiar with the cyclonic winds.

Apart from this minor detail no one could read Hauthal's pages and doubt the glaciation. It is thoroughly made out.

Even more interesting are his notes of travel, notably in Bolivia on the highland, of which he gives a vivid picture. He has no suspicion of a peneplain. For him it is an upland made from great folds of rocks striking N. W.-S. E. on which numerous volcanoes have poured out their lavas and filled the hollows. A lively example of travel is the extra-post trip from Oruro to La Paz, 200 kilometers in 24 hours over a roadless land. One gets a vivid picture of the handful of Bolivians of European blood ruling the hostile Aymaras who vastly outnumber them, through the Cholo half-breeds of double affinities. His travel notes make singularly good reading and so too his brief touches on the antiquities of the land. At Tiahuanaco the ruins deteriorate perceptibly between visits. The young men of La Paz make revolver practice on the ancient carvings. He has hearty words of praise for citizens of the better classes both of Bolivia and Peru. They are striving for better things.

MARK JEFFERSON.

ASIA

Le Laos. Par Lucien de Reinach. Édition posthume, revue et mise à jour par P. Chemin Dupontès. vii and 392 pp. Map.* E. Guilmoto, Éditeur, Paris. 1911. Fr. 7.50. 9 x 5½.

The author of this work died before his task was done. In the form in which it sees the light it is the erection of a monument to the memory of a

* Listed under "French Indo-China" in *Bull.*, Vol. 43, 1911, p. 877.

competent administrator in the French possessions in the Orient, the gratification of the piety of warm personal regard on the part of the editor, Father Chemin Dupontès. But because of a somewhat mechanical method the monument stands rather as a cenotaph, a far less satisfactory sort of memorial. It is clear that the reverend editor has assembled all the unfinished fragments left by Captain de Reinach and has sought to fill the gaps where the manuscript had not developed the theme in full. This he has done for the most part by the insertion of somewhat extensive extracts from the work of others, his dependence being largely upon the work of Colonel Tournier, the reports of recent governors and other volumes most readily accessible to the student of the affairs of Indo-China. The result of this method is to present the appearance of patchwork. The title, that is to say the proper nomenclature of the people, involves a controversy. The French, following the usage of the neighbor people, give it as Laos. In Mrs. Milne's work on the Shan the Rev. Mr. Cochrane is positive in its determination as Lao; it appears that to this determination he is led by the assumption that s-terminal in Laos is the s-plural, a mechanism of grammar which is inapplicable to an uninflected language. We recall upon the spot a wide variety of sound varying from a clear sibilant through various obscurities to its complete obliteration. In these southern tonal languages the pure sibilant tends toward frequent mutation to the aspirate, and such an aspiration when terminal after a vowel is not always recognizable by the European ear. Despite the positive statement of Mr. Cochrane, rendered at some little distance from the seat of the Laos, we incline to regard the French as the better authority and shall continue to employ the designation Laos. No matter what the general designation may be decided to be, the study of the Laos must engage with three distinct categories of population, the Thai, the Kha, and alien migrants from the limiting communities of China, Yunnan, Annam, Cambodia, Siam and Burma; these three elements form various areas of contamination surrounding foci of Thai and Kha culture. Upon these elements Captain Reinach spent considerable and enlightening study which is manifest in his chapters on social life and manners and customs. He is equally full and satisfactory when dealing with matters of administration.

Owing to the conditions of his employment in the colonial service the author is able to add little that is new in his study of the geography of the region. His duty held him in the second rank of progress, his was the task of following in the steps of exploration and of conquest, of consolidating the wild and establishing the new civilization. But he has been able to present many definite determinations, valuable points to have settled in economic geography, the head of steam navigation in the rivers, the head of canoe navigation still farther within the interior, the terminus and the feasibility of the narrow trails which are the best the jungle affords by way of roads. Despite the defects of the manner of the completion of the work, it must stand as by far the best account of a state which will possess in the future still greater value to France as the years uncover its designs upon Siam, whose inner entrances Laos covers.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Seistan. A Memoir on the History, Topography, Ruins, and People of the Country. In four parts. By G. P. Tate. Parts I to III. 271 pp. Maps, ills. Superintendent Government Printing, India. Calcutta, 1910. £1. 12s. 12 x 10.

This is a memoir on the history, topography, rivers and people of the region. The information was chiefly gathered during the sojourn of a boundary commission. The volume includes the treatment of the first three of the above named topics. It is written without perspective. The history so-called is so dreary a succession of trivial records, that it can be useful only as a source for scholars. Even these, it would seem, might derive advantage from a clear and summary picture of the larger meaning and progress of human events in that obscure part of the world.

The same criticism is painfully true of the chapters on the "Topography of Seistan." They commit the unpardonable sin of being, except for one district, without maps. There is nothing to show the relation of localities to each other, or of the whole to its environing territory. The keenest reader, who has not studied the geography elsewhere, is helpless in trying to picture the country. We are told, for example, that the "Khash River emerges from the hills at a place